

Message Text

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SUBJ: UN NARCOTICS RESEARCHERS' MEETING IN OSLO MAY 8-16

1. SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS FROM 20 COUNTRIES MET IN OSLO
THE WEEK OF MAY 8-16 FOR A CONFERENCE ON THE OPIUM POPPY SPONSORED
BY THE UN NARCOTICS COMMISSION. HIGHLIGHT OF THE CONFERENCE
WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY PROFESSOR ARNOLD NORDAL OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF OSLO OF RESULTS OF HIS RESEARCH ON A SYNTHETIC SUBSTANCE
WHICH, WHEN SPRAYED ON POPPY PLANTS, CAN EITHER INHIBIT OR
ACCELERATE
THE PRODUCTION OF OPIUM TOXIN BY THE PLANT.

2. PROF OLAV BRAEDEN, NORWEGIAN, DIRECTOR OF THE UN NARCOTICS
LAB IN GENEVA, HAILED NORDAL'S RESEARCH AS HOLDING A POSSIBLE
ANSWER TO THE CONTROL OF ILLEGALLY GROWN OPIUM POPPIES, IF HOST
GOVERNMENTS COULD BE BROUGHT AROUND TO ACCEPT SELECTIVE SPRAYING
OF CROPS. PRODUCTION OF SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF THE
SUBSTANCE FOR SPRAYING POPPIES COULD BE READY FOR USE IN
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FOUR TO SEVEN YEARS TIME. THE PROBLEM OF GETTING POPPY-GROWING
COUNTRIES TO COOPERATE IN A CONTROL PROGRAM WOULD THEN HAVE TO
BE PUT BEFORE THE UN.

3. ANOTHER POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT THAT COULD HELP
CONTROL ILLEGAL OPIUM PRODUCTION THAT WAS DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE
WAS THE DISCOVERY OF THE PERSIAN MOUNTAIN POPPY. THIS PLANT,

ACCORDING TO A DESCRIPTION BY PROF NORDAL, WOULD ALLOW PRODUCTION OF CODEINE WITHOUT FIRST PRODUCING MORPHINE. IF THE PLANT CAN BE GROWN EXTENSIVELY AND SUCCESSFULLY OUTSIDE ITS NATURAL HABITAT, THE PROBLEM OF CONVINCING POPPY FARMERS TO SWITCH TO ITS USE WOULD HAVE TO BE FACED.

4. AN AMERICAN EXPERT AT THE MEETING, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCHER DR. QUENTIN JONES, HAILED DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE PERSIAN MOUNTAIN POPPY, AND THE OPIUM INHIBITING SUBSTANCE DEVELOPED BY PROF NORDAL. THE CONTINUATION AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF SUCH RESEARCH WORK, DR. JONES CONCLUDED, WILL DEPEND ON OBTAINING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE UN.LERNER

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